

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for managing a machinery supply chain utilizing a network,
 2 comprising:
 3 a) receiving data from a plurality of machinery outlets of a machinery supply chain
 4 utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of machinery products by the
 5 machinery outlets;
 6 b) generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering machinery
 7 products from a machinery distributor of the machinery supply chain;
 8 c) transmitting the data to the machinery distributor of the machinery supply chain
 9 utilizing the network;
 10 d) transmitting the data to a machinery supplier of the machinery supply chain
 11 utilizing the network; and
 12 e) forecasting activity in the machinery supply chain utilizing the data.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data is parsed to match each of a plurality of
 2 machinery distributors and machinery suppliers.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data is made accessible to the machinery
 2 outlets, the machinery distributor, the machinery supplier via a network-based
 3 interface.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the data is accessible to the machinery distributor
 2 and the machinery supplier only after verification of an identity thereof.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

- 1 13. A computer program product for managing a machinery supply chain utilizing a
2 network, comprising:
- 3 a) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of machinery outlets of a
4 machinery supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of
5 machinery by the machinery outlets;
- 6 b) computer code for generating an electronic order form based on the data for
7 ordering machinery from a machinery distributor of the machinery supply chain;
- 8 c) computer code for transmitting the data to the machinery distributor of the
9 machinery supply chain utilizing the network;
- 10 d) computer code for transmitting the data to a machinery supplier of the machinery
11 supply chain utilizing the network; and
- 12 e) computer code for forecasting activity in the machinery supply chain utilizing the
13 data.
- 1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data is parsed to match
2 each of a plurality of machinery distributors and machinery suppliers.
- 1 15. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the data is made accessible
2 to the machinery outlets, the machinery distributor, the machinery supplier via a
3 network-based interface.
- 1 16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the data is accessible to the
2 machinery distributor and the machinery supplier only after verification of an
3 identity thereof.
- 1 17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the
2 Internet.
- 1 18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the machinery outlets, the
2 machinery distributor, and the machinery supplier each forecast utilizing the data.